

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, PINS, PGOV, ET

SUBJECT: REPORTING ON INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN SITUATION

1. WHILE DEPT IS AWARE OF DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING INFORMATION ON CURRENT INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND ANALYZING THEM ON BASIS FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION, OWING TO NUMEROUS CHANGES OF TOP IEG PERSONNEL AND CONSEQUENT LOSS OF FORMERLY AVAILABLE SOURCES AND CONTACTS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM EMBASSY INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE AND ANALYSIS ON FOLLOWING TOPICS WHICH ARE OF MAJOR INTEREST HERE:

(A) TO WHAT EXTENT ARE REBELLIOUS MILITARY INTERESTED MAINLY IN THEIR OWN ECONOMIC BETTERMENT AND TO WHAT EXTENT IN MORE GENERAL REFORMS AFFECTING ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS?

(B) WHAT ARE LIKELY EVENTS/DEVELOPMENTS THAT MIGHT CAUSE THE MILITARY TO MOVE TO DISPLACE ENDALKATCHEW GOVERNMENT AND PERHAPS TRY TO TAKE OVER DIRECT RULE THEMSELVES, WITH OR WITHOUT EMPEROR?

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(C) CAN ANY OF THE EOPR MEMBERS BE IDENTIFIED? HOW

POWERFUL IS THE RADICAL MINORITY? CAN ASSEFA AYENE'S
ROLE BE CLARIFIED?

(D) WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF RADICAL AND OTHER REBELLIOUS
MILITARY ELEMENTS TOWARDS THE U.S., ESPECIALLY TOWARD
U.S. MILITARY AID? HOW RECEPTIVE WOULD THE RADICALS
AND OTHER FACTIONS BE TO A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN
PRC AID?

(E) WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL REPORTING ON ETHNIC,
REGIONAL AND RELIGIOUS CLEAVAGES WITHIN THE MILITARY,
PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE GALLAS AND THE TIGREAN-
ERITREAN MAJORITY WITHIN THE AIR FORCE. HOW CLOSE IS
THE RELATIONSHIP OF AIR FORCE AND STUDENT TIGREANS
AND ERITREANS? IS ENDALKATCHEW VIEWED AS ANTI-ERITREAN?
WOULD ZAWDE BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO ERITREANS AND TIGREANS?
WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF TIGREAN-ERITREAN MILITARY
ELEMENTS TOWARD ELF? WHAT MORE IS KNOWN ABOUT
TADESSE BIRU'S ESCAPE?

(F) HOW LIKELY IS AN ATTEMPTED COUP BY TRADITIONAL
FORCES?

(G) WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH TOWARD RECENT POLITICAL CHANGES? KISSINGER

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